Our Parish Aston-Cum-Aughton with Swallownest and Ulley

September 2023



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On the absurdity of a vicar ever retiring.

The Rectory St James the Least of All



My dear nephew Darren,

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone – ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend -preferably on another planet – on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts – although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.

He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for my Queen Anne rectory to be sold and my five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential – which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed! I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday 3 September

10:30am All Age Worship

Wednesday 6 September

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 September

10:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 13 September

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 17 September

10:30am Morning Worship6:00pm Said Evensong with Hymns

Wednesday 20 September

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 24 September

10:30am	Holy Communion
6:00pm	Said Compline with Hymns

Wednesday 27 September

9:30am Holy Communion



Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3 September 9:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 September 10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 17 September 10:30am Holy Communion With Blessing the Well Dressing

Sunday 24 September 10:30am Morning Worship

All Services are now in Church and will be available on ZOOM Meeting ID : 751 676 3956 Passcode : 266293

WHO TO CONTACT AT HOLY TRINITY

Church Wardens:

Gwyneth Hodgson: 0114 287 2150, Gwyneth.sampson@outlook.com Sue Hubbard: 0114 287 3846, suehermec@hotmail.com

Weddings: If you want to talk about getting married, or to book your wedding please E-mail Hazel on office@allsaintsaston.com. Wedding couples can ring: 07934 101538

Baptisms: If you would like to arrange a Baptism please E-mail our Baptism co-ordinator, Gloria Hope on Baptism@gloriahope.uk

Funerals: To arrange a Funeral please speak to Gwyneth Hodgson: 0114 287 2150, Gwyneth.sampson@outlook.com



A Plea to the Community of All Saints Church

A warm welcome awaits you whenever you wish to visit our beautiful Grade 1 listed 12th Century Church. Here at All Saints Church Aston we have Services every Sunday and during the week for those people who wish to extend their faith, or cannot make our Sunday Services.

We welcome the residents of our Community. Many of our children visit and play under supervision at our various organised groups. Many of these groups and services are highlighted in this Monthly Parish Magazine.

Our church is run by the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Aston, which comprises elected members of the Congregation, Clergy and Licensed Lay members. The PCC meets every month to discuss our finances and how our money should be spent to benefit and improve our church.

These meetings cover matters from the day to day running of our church, to the safety of every person who enters our church, and the ongoing repairs and main-tenance needed to ensure our church is fit for purpose.

We receive many wonderful testaments from visitors who visit our church; from those who have been to a Service, a Wedding, a Baptism, a Funeral or just decided to look around our Church when in the area or staying at Aston Hall Hotel.

Like many other organizations, our Church continues to have challenges to maintain the fabric of the building and the requirements for our Church and Community's future.

We are grateful to members of our congregation and friends who donate to assist in all that we try to do in the development and the continuing pathway work of our Church. These donations are made by a monthly bank direct debit, a weekly envelope scheme or by cash in the collection tray. All monies are used to help in the running of our church.

We hope you too would like to consider becoming part of the continuation of our work and the future of our Church by donating whatever you feel you can afford. Being a charity, if you are a tax payer each £1.00 donation you give attracts 25p from the government, which as you can understand is of great help to us.

If you would like further information on how you can help by making a monthly bank direct debit donation, by weekly envelope contribution, or a one off donation to our church we would be very grateful for you to contact our Gift Aid Secretary or our Admin Assistant

Contact details as follows:

Gift Aid Secretary : Glyn Sands Mobile phone 07835 240870 or glynsands@aol.com

Church AdminAssistant : Hazel Winstanley by email at office@allsaintsaston.com or phone 07934 101538

About 700AD the people of Aston embraced Christianity and built a church: probably of wattle and wood. After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the Norman Lord erected a Hall and rebuilt the Church in Stone

> **Together with your assistance** we could help to ensure that our Church will continue into the future

ROTHERHAM FOODBANK

You can leave donations in the porch at All Saints from 9.30am to 10.30am on Wednesdays and from 9.15am to 10.30am on Sundays.

They urgently need:

Tinned Fruit Biscuits Tinned Vegetables Snack Foods

Packet Mashed Potatoes **Tinned Potatoes**

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Any donations you can make will be greatly appreciated.

Please speak to Pam Taylor 0114 287 9221 if you would like more information.



The Secret of Living

The secret of living Is learning to pray – It's asking our Father For strength for the day!

It's trusting completely That His boundless grace Will overcome care And each problem we face!

It's walking by Faith Every mile that we plod And knowing our prayers Bring us closer to God.

Anon

ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 3 ALL AGE WORSHP
- 10 HOLY COMMUNION
- 17 MORNING WORSHIP
- 24 HOLY COMMUNION

Pam Taylor & Ann Mason Glyn Sands & Gill Ward Paul Moakes & Marjorie O'Neil Bill Mawson & Pauline Martin

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON



ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

COFFEE MORNING



In the Narthex

Every 2nd Friday of each month

10:00am -12:00pm

1st September : St Drithelm - Vision of the After-Life



St Drithelm is the saint for you if you have ever wondered what lies beyond death, or have had a near-death experience. He was married and living in Cunningham (now Ayrshire, then Northumbria) in the 7th century. After an illness which became gradually worse he apparently died. He came back to life a few hours later, scaring everyone but his wife, and was himself deeply shaken by the whole experience.

While temporarily dead, Drithelm was apparently given a tour of the afterlife by a celestial guide. In the "vision of Drithelm", the future monk of Melrose was shown hell, purgatory and heaven, along with some of the souls therein, but was denied entry to paradise. Purgatory was a place of extreme heat and cold, Hell a place where souls

burned, Heaven a place of intense light, and Paradise a place of even greater light. Drithelm's experience in a valley suggests the temporariness of purgatory, for it was an intermediate stage, straddling Heaven and Hell.

Drithelm went to pray in the village church until daylight, and during those long hours reviewed the priorities of his life in the light of what he had seen while 'dead'. Suddenly the reality of God and of coming judgement and of what Christ had done in redeeming mankind became real to him, and his life on earth could never be the same again.

Next day he divided his wealth into three: giving one third to his wife, one third to his sons, and the remainder to the poor. He became a monk and went to live at Melrose, where he spent his time in prayer and contemplation of Jesus.

Bede says that Drithelm related the tale to Aldfrith king of Northumbria, AEthelwold Bishop of Lindisfarne and an Irish monk called *Haemgisl*. A similar vision of the afterlife was later reported by Boniface, who described a vision of hell experienced by a monk of Much Wenlock. Prior to Bede and Boniface, the *Vita sancti Fursei*, had attributed a like vision to its own hero, Fursa, and Bede himself quoted this in part.

Drithelm's Vision of the after-life is remarkable in that it was the first example of this kind of literature from England. It was so early: seventh century Anglo-Saxon England! Drithelm has even been seen as a remote precursor of Dante.

On a lighter note, Drithelm can also be a saint for you if you didn't get abroad this summer, but ventured to swim instead off one of our beaches: he used to stand in the cold waters of the Tweed for hours, reciting Psalms.

4th September : St Birinus - Apostle of Wessex

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Did you ever feel that God was calling you to do something big for Him, even though you were not quite sure of the details? If so, Birinus is the saint for you.

He was a French Benedictine monk who in 634 was made a bishop at Genoa, and sent by Pope Honorius 1 to extend the evangelisation of England. (Augustine had arrived in Canterbury about 35 years before.)

Birinus landed at Hamwic, near Southampton. His original plan was to evangelise Wessex and then penetrate up into the Midlands, where no preacher had ever yet reached. But Birinus soon found the West Saxons so pagan that he decided to concentrate just on them.

Birinus had little to help him become the apostle to Wessex. So, he simply used what he did have: his own two feet and his voice. He wandered around preaching at every opportunity, trusting in God to help him. And He did: Birinus became known and respected, and soon a big breakthrough occurred: for political reasons the King of Wessex, Cynegils, wanted to convert to Christianity, and he asked Birinus to help him. So Birinus instructed and baptised King Cynegils, who was then able to marry the Christian king of Northumbria's daughter, Cyneburg, and in due course Birinus baptised their family as well.

In return, Cynegils gave Birinus the town of Dorchester (upon Thames) to be his diocesan see. It was a perfect location: a Romano-British town right on a road and a river, in the midst of a populated area.

During his 15 years as Bishop of Dorchester, Birinus baptised many people and built churches all over the area, with the king's blessing.

Before he died in 650, Birinus dedicated a church at Winchester. It was a glimpse of the future: for Winchester's growing importance made it inevitable that in time it would also become the ecclesiastical centre of the kingdom.



24th September : St Gerard Sagredo - Church Planting in the 11th Century

It's amazing how little some things change down the centuries. Take the life of Gerard Sagredo, for instance. He left his 'comfort zone' of home and church because he felt God's calling on his life. He travelled abroad and taught in order to earn his living in a non-Christian country. In his spare time he shared his faith with the people he met, and gradually some were converted. Soon he had 'planted' a little church.

Gerard's life sounds like that of a western missionary in parts of the developing world today. In fact, he was an 11th century monk from Venice. He was the prior of San Giorgio Maggiore, but gave up the security in order to attempt the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. But God stopped Gerard when he reached Hungary, for King Stephen not only welcomed him, but pressed him to become tutor to his son.

Gerard agreed, and soon he had converted a group of people around him. In those days monks didn't just plant churches – they planted entire 'sees' of the church, and so the see of Csanad was established, with Gerard as its first bishop.

But the problems of then and now seem surprisingly similar. Gerard Sagredo worked in the face of growing hostility from local people of other faiths, and half-hearted commitment from some of his own converts. Nearly 1,000 years later, Christian missionaries all over the world are still facing the same two struggles.

Sadly, the next bit of the story is also all too familiar: King Stephen died, and the new people in power hated Christians. In 1038 persecution began. In 1046 Gerard was attacked in the street, and stoned. A lance was thrust through him. His body was then hurled into the Danube. Gerard Sagredo had become a martyr of the Persecuted Church.

The non-Christians killed Gerard that day, but they did not kill Christianity. In the years to come many more thousands of Christians would die, while the church grew, not shrank. Meanwhile, Venice paid homage to her first ever martyr by translating some of his relics back to the island of Murano in 1333.

xtx

Meaningful Part-Time Work

This is a topic I wrote about a few years ago which remains relevant. 'Deprived of meaningful work, men and women lose their reason for existence; they go stark, raving mad...' wrote, Russian author, Fyodor Dostoevsky, one of the first people to get to grips with how people's minds really work. A meaningful life requires meaningful work. That means finding a new 'mission'. The need can feel especially acute when retiring from full time work. Many people can feel quite low otherwise. A balance needs to be struck between winding down and retaining an active mind.

Your original mission was probably to provide for yourself, your partner, your young family and maybe to give yourself further choices in the future. Many people had no careers advice or much choice of career. Family life required cash now and 'prospects' for later. When children leave home, settle down and finally stop coming back... you might have a financial buffer, a small pension, redundancy payment or an inheritance. But even if not you can now reconsider your career and perhaps suit your personality and experiences better – often part time.

We are not immortal. Life is short. Maybe you have met lonely people during your work, as I did, and thought 'That's a big problem. I wonder who will sort it out?'. Perhaps you have supported a loved one through an illness. Now they are gone you miss them *and* the sense of fulfilment that caring gave? It shows you are a genuinely caring and compassionate person and may be suited to a paid caring role.

You may have other interests and obligations also and flexibility is important perhaps around grandchildren. Unpaid or voluntary roles are a possibility, but if you need payment, a part-time role may be necessary. What are your 'translatable skills'? Being self-employed might be attractive. For example, if you like working outside local opportunities exist in garden maintenance. If you have always been handy (not a 'botch jobber') then there may lie remunerative opportunities to be undertaken at your own pace. We all know retired people who have become 'the go to person' locally. They seem busier and more connected in the community than ever. Successful business people might become a coach or mentor.

Learning for 'the fun of it' might appeal. Many organisations operate face to face or online courses. I recall a 90-year-old many years ago, who completed his O Level in German. 'Why?' I asked: 'I was stationed there for a while after the war but never got beyond asking for a beer. I thought it was time to see what it was all about.' Hobbies and interests can also be developed: Hopefully one that does not take over the whole house or annoy the neighbours! Nobody cares to hear the Trumpet Voluntary, or the Last Post played loudly and badly at all hours of day and night. You know who you are...

David Coldrick is owner of Home Instead Senior Care Rotherham 34 Moorgate Road S60 2AG. Telephone 01709 837170 <u>david.coldrick@homeinstead.co.uk</u> All views his own.

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STORY OF SWALLOWNEST (Part 1)

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The following was published in the Rotherham Advertiser on the 9th July 1938.



Looking from the crossroads down Main Street. Mr. Swallow's house on the left. The cottage and lean-to on the right was the Tollhouse on the Rotherham to Pleasley Turnpike Road. This is now the traffic light junction.

How The Village Started and Received Its Name.

When services were held in a Public House

Though one or two of our local villages have been closely associated with the foundation of early places of worship for the Nonconformists - Bramley and Thorpe Hesley are examples – few, if any, can have provided a more unusual home for the meetings preceding the erection of a chapel than Swallownest. To tell the story of this meeting place it is necessary first to outline something of the story of Swallownest.

Swallownest is big brother to Aston - a brother who has grown much faster. It would be difficult indeed to find a village in this part of the country which has retained its rurality more completely than Aston. It has been one township with Aughton for hundreds of years. Its population in 1811 was 601 and 21 years later it had gone down to 566. In the directory for 1833 there is a statement that "Swallownest is a toll-bar and a public house" and in 1906 Aston held the quaint record that during the past 20 years it had built two houses and demolished one old one!

There is still about Aston a quiet, tired air, as that of a place which has done its share in the world's work and is content to stand aside and let the younger and more active ones do theirs.

"Swallow's Nest"

Whilst Aston has stood almost still, Swallownest has been striding forward energetically. And now, the preamble concluded, to the story of the life of Swallownest and when the place consisted of a "toll-bar and public house".

Of the birth and parentage of the toll-bar nothing is known, but of the public house it is reliably stated that about 170 years ago one Jonathan Swallow came from the neighbourhood of Chesterfield and built a house - or rather built a house for himself and the general public. A person knew him passed one day and remarked: "Well, Mr. Swallow, you're building yourself a nest!" - and that is how the village got its name. "Swallow's Nest" became Swallownest.

Miss Elizabeth Swallow, a daughter of the nest-builder, married a John Ward of Sheffield, and his son, also a John Ward, is said to have been a model publican. He it was who used to fiddle up the street in pattens *(clogs)*, something like the Pied Piper of Hamelin did (barring the pattens), and, just as the children followed the Hamelin piper, so the grown-up persons followed John. He dealt more kindly with his captives than did Browning, for instead of shutting them up in a cave and keeping them there for ever, he supplied them with good ale.

Growing Pains

John was succeeded by a Jonathan - a famous cattle dealer who rode all the way from Sheffield to Liverpool on a mule to buy pigs and cattle. During the time Jonathan reigned at the "Swallow's Nest" the village grew. The Common Lands were taken up in his time, a "gin-pit" was started for the getting of coal on the land occupied by the Aston Land Society years ago, and cottages sprang up. More, the national institution that is next only to the public-house put in an appearance, for they built a "Parish Workhouse" on the top of the hill.

The quarries of the place were previously public property, and if any of the freeholders thought they would like a house of their own they simply went and got the stone for it. When the Commons were sold, Ward bought that portion of land known as the "Gin Close" where the pit had been: a Mr. Skinner bought the quarries, and henceforth those who wished to build used bricks - and bought them.

Part 2 will be published in the October issue.

Ann Key Secretary, Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

WEDDINGS AT ASTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH



Are you planning your wedding? Why not come and see our beautiful 12th century church and have a chat with our wedding team to see if we can help you have a truly memorable day.

Aston All Saints is a wonderful setting for your wedding and of course it is ideally situated if you are planning to hold your reception at the outstanding Aston Hall Hotel which is just a two minute walk away.

Did you know that you can now be married in our church even if you don't live in this parish?

If you would like to come and have a look around please get in touch with our wedding team by:

E-mail weddings.astonallsaints@gmail.com or Phone 07934 101538

We would love to be 'The perfect place for your perfect day'.

ULLEY WELL DRESSING 2023

Starts Saturday 9 September with a day of eco-themed activities, tea and cakes and ends on Sunday 17 September when the well will be blessed as part of the 10:30am service.

You are very welcome to join us on the above days or during the week to help create the well dressing.

This year's Theme: FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

For more details and to confirm times Please contact Sue Hubbard: 0779304628



Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

meet in the Reading Room on 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month

7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Contact

Jeff Blades 0114 287 2102 Brian Mears 0114 287 7751 Ann Key 0114 287 2610

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Groups and Societies

YAS - Youth Club (11-16 years)

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Aston Footpath Walkers Association

Local friendly walking every Thursday. Contact Mel Partridge on 0114 438 1493.

Aston Ladies Circle

Meetings are at 7.15pm on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall or 'OUT' on trips. Contact Audrey Jones 0114 287 5518

Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 - 9pm, William Layne Reading Room, Aughton Lane, Aston. Visitors welcome.

Aston-cum-Aughton Ladies Group

Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1.45pm in the Narthex at All Saints Church. New members / visitors welcome (small fee). Contact : Val on 0114 287 3214

Chatterbox Activity Group

for pensioners, carers and over 55's. *See pg.23 Tuesdays 10am to 12.30, Central Methodist Church Hall, Lodge Lane, Aston. £2 Transport available. Extra help always welcome. Contact Janet on 07989 370593*

Dinnington & District Horticultural Society

Evening talks in Anston Parish Hall, Ryton Road, North Anston S25 4DL at 7.30pm. Non members £2.50. For more details contact : 01909 567326.



Friends of Ulley Country Park

Sunday Café: 11 am to 3 pm. Homemade refreshments including soup, crusty bread, coffee, tea, fruit cordials, cakes and scones. We hope to host a special event at each Café day. Details on the website.

5th Age (charity number 1068378)

This social group meets every Tuesday, 2 - 4pm at Heighton View Community Centre (off Turnshaw Avenue in Aughton). Open to anyone over 55. Just drop in: ask for Julia. Membership free. Contact : **enquire5thage@outlook.com**

Prospects@Central

An inclusive service with those with learning difficulties. All welcome! We learn stories from the Bible, (sometimes acted out); sing songs together in worship and celebration and end with cake. Swallownest Baptist Church 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm. Contacts : **Malcolm 07720 776081** or **Elizabeth 07594 410801**

Little Angels

Playgroup for babies and pre-school children at All Saints Church, Aston Termtime every Monday 9.30 - 11.00am in Term time and every Thursday 9:30 -11:00am at Holy Trinity Ulley in Term Time. Admission FREE, but donations welcome Contact : **Gloria Hope 07553 504806** or **gloria(agloriahope.uk**



Our Parish Office Number is 07934 101538

From the Registers

Baptisms :

Alfie Brian Ivan Davies Sofia Jean Weaver Dexter Ian Needham Aurora Bloor Mullooly

Funerals :

Robert Stewart Horsely



WHO TO CONTACT AT ALL SAINTS

If you want to talk about getting married, or to book your wedding please telephone **07934 101538**

If you would like to arrange a Baptism please E-mail our Baptism co-ordinator, Gloria Hope on **Baptism@gloriahope.uk**

To arrange a Funeral please speak to Jim Nuttall **nuttall.jim@gmail.com** tel 0114 287 6047 Remember you can view this magazine In full colour online www.allsaintsaston.com

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REGULAR SERVICES SUBJECT TO COVID GUIDELINES

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON

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WEDNESDAYS:	Holy Communion	9.30am	
PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY			
SUNDAYS:	Holy Communion (1st Sunday) Morning Worship (2nd Sunday & 4th Sunday) Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)	9:00am 10.30am 10.30am	
TEAM STAFF			
LAY MINISTER:	Peter Hutchinson 17 Front Street, Treeton S60 5QP	0114 4425 340	
LAY READERS:	Jim Nuttall nuttall.jim@gmail.com 3 Rosegarth Avenue, Aston, Sheffield S26 2DB	0114 287 6047	
	Gwyneth Hodgson Hanbury House, Main Street, Ulley, Sheffield S26 3YD	0114 287 2150	
CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Beth Henshaw		07813 789255	
WARDENS:	Chris Ward (All Saints) Val Dixon (All Saints)	07949 186202 0114 287 3214	
	Sue Hubbard (Holy Trinity) Gwyneth Hodgson (Holy Trinity)	0114 287 3846 0114 287 2150	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Louise Cooper		07581 421976	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Elliott Walker		07954 685831	
MAGAZINE	Peter Maxted peter@themax2020.co.uk	0114 287 5477	
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